A review is given of recent theoretical investigations of spin density fluctuations in magnetic metals from a very general point of view, leading to a unified picture of magnetism that interprets well of the long-familiar local moment limit and a newly established limit of spatially extended spin fluctuations. [The SCR\textsuperscript{5} indicates that this paper has been cited in over 135 publications, making it the most-cited paper in this journal.]

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In late 1971 A. Katsumata and I were excited by finding a possible new mechanism for the Curie-Weiss (CW) magnetic susceptibility in metallic or itinerant electron magnets, as a consequence of a thoroughly-familiar local moment limit and a newly established limit of spatially extended spin fluctuations. [The SCR\textsuperscript{5} indicates that this paper has been cited in over 135 publications, making it the most-cited paper in this journal.]

In subsequent years various novel predictions of the SCR theory on weak itinerant ferromagnets and antiferromagnets were tested experimentally with overwhelming success. We thus considered that the weak itinerant ferro- and antiferromagnets constituted an important category of magnets in the opposite extreme to the familiar local moments systems; thus, many ferro- and antiferromagnetic metals belonged to the intermediate regime between these extremes. As a natural consequence of this observation, we started to develop a theory of interpolation between these two extremes within an adiabatic approximation, which led to a unified picture of magnetism described in terms of very general spin fluctuations.\textsuperscript{6} One of the important new concepts here was the variable local amplitude of the spin fluctuation, which gave extra degrees of freedom over the conventional local moment picture and led to clarifications of various hitherto unexplained phenomena.

This paper summarizes these developments up to 1979 in the study of itinerant electron magnetism. As a matter of fact, the editor of the journal, on advice from V. Jaccarino, invited me to write this review. A Russian journal, Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk, soon published a translation of this paper.\textsuperscript{5} I think that this paper has been cited frequently because it dealt with a fundamental issue concerned with a rather wide range of problems in magnetism. I was selected for the 1979 Nishina Memorial Prize for these investigations.

There were further advances in this area after this paper was written. A survey of the present status of the field can be found in my 1985 publication.\textsuperscript{5} Finally, I would like to commend the excellent contributions and cooperation of my colleagues. Each played important roles at certain stages of these developments.


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